



April/May/June 2014 Newsletter

### **Director's Message**

The POST bill continued through the legislature and a new piece of legislation regarding marijuana revenue was put on a fast track. The POST certification test went online and a field test of items to be included in the test bank was conducted. The grant subcommittee met and prepared recommendations for the June Board meeting for the next fiscal year. Inspections and test-outs continued in a variety of weather conditions. The work of the Subject Matter Expert committees continues to improve skills and academy training.

As we start in July, some significant changes are coming to Colorado law enforcement. The passing and signing of the POST and Marijuana Revenue spending bills will complement the existing grant funding. They will provide critical and needed training throughout the state. Additional staff will be hired to implement these new programs. It's going to be an even busier summer!

As we have focused on officer safety, particularly with Below 100 and driving safety, consider this: Running code is a term used for driving with lights and siren activated. Too often there have been tragic accidents where officers were driving code 3 to medical calls. Almost always, the medical personnel had arrived prior to the officer's accident. Keep in mind one of the Below 100 tenets-What's Important Now (WIN). You have to get there to be of assistance to a fellow officer or member of the public. Do so with caution and a minimum of distractions.

### **POST Bill Next Steps**

On May 21, Governor Hickenlooper signed into law SB14-123. It gives the POST Board authority to create the in-service training program. As part of the program, training evaluation and agency compliance processes are to be created within the program. The law does not specify the number of hours or other program details but rather gives the Board authority to determine the program components. A subcommittee of POST Board members was created at the June 13, 2014 Board meeting to create an in-service training program proposal. POST staff will work with the subcommittee over the upcoming months to bring a proposal to bring to the

full Board. Every effort will be made to have the program in place by January of 2015. The bill also makes a number of minor but important clarifications to the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board statute:

- Authority to create rules deemed necessary to carry out provisions of Title 24, article 31.
- Increases the POST certification test fee from \$125 to \$150.
- Allows POST grants to be awarded to non-profit organizations.
- Allows POST Board to create rules for VIN inspector certification and related training courses.
- Adds a conviction of a local municipal ordinance that is the equivalent of any decertifying offense to the list of decertifying offenses.
- Increased vehicle registration fee going to POST from \$.60 to \$1.00.

The law takes effect on August 6, 2014.

Additional funding from the new law is expected to be approximately \$1.6 million in FY 2014/2015. That funding will be used to allow those agencies who have been unable to train to receive funding to pay for the training, training equipment, facility rental, ammunition, and allow agencies to backfill their positions so they can attend training. It will also fund the purchase of use-of-force and driving simulators by training regions throughout the state to improve those skills and reduce problems in those areas.

A new position will be added to the POST staff to administer the in-service training program components including training evaluation and compliance measures.

### Marijuana Enforcement Training

Towards the end of the legislative year, SB14-215 was introduced. This bill was created to spend money from the marijuana cash fund. In addition to funding a number of programs and positions, the bill directed money to POST for marijuana enforcement training.

This bill contained funding in great part due to the work of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP). CACP worked with POST to develop a list of training courses related to marijuana enforcement including the funding of a staff person to administer the program. POST will be working to provide multiple presentations of Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) and a few other courses across the state. Information will be sent out as soon as courses are scheduled.

## Legislative Training Mandates

The Elder Abuse training has concluded with all but forty-seven agencies sending a representative to the course. The final course was a webinar and the video will be rebroadcast at a later date. Special thanks to the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office for working with POST to develop the course. Mandatory reporting starts on July 1, 2014.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) curriculum has also been completed. POST has been contacted by several providers but no course has been presented yet. It is important to remember that only the new SRO curriculum will satisfy the requirement. Agencies interested in presenting the training are urged to contact POST for curriculum information.

POST will soon be contacting agencies to determine which agencies already satisfy the statute through grandfathering past training.

## POST Board Vacancy

With the resignation of Sheriff Chris Johnson to become the Executive Director of the County Sheriffs of Colorado, a sheriff's position on the Board has opened up. Interested sheriffs should apply by July 7th through the Governor's Office at: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovHickenlooper/CBON/1249674847715>

Sheriff Johnson served for 34 years with the Otero County Sheriff's Office, the past 12 as the Sheriff. Sheriff Johnson was a member of the POST Board since 2011 and was the Board representative to the Firearms SME Committee. We thank him for his service.

Governor Hickenlooper has appointed former Sheriff Stan Hilkey as the new Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety. Director Hilkey was a member of the POST Board and brings many years of experience, including his work in the area of driver safety. We thank Interim Executive Director Kathy Sasak for her involvement with the Grant Subcommittee and POST Board until Director Hilkey assumed office on June 16th.

Four new Board members have been appointed by Governor Hickenlooper. They are:

**Chief John Collins**, of the Englewood Police Department, is replacing former Aurora Chief Dan Oates on the POST Board. Chief Collins began his career with the Yuma, Arizona, Police Department in 1976 and joined the Englewood Police Department in 1978. In 1988, he went to work as an

investigator for the Eighteenth Judicial District but returned to Englewood PD in 1990, working his way through the ranks until his appointment as chief in May of 2011. Chief Collins has a firm commitment to Community Oriented Policing and has developed training in that area for Englewood PD. He is a certified instructor in the principles of community policing and has worked to increase and improve outreach programs to create engagement with the community.

**Deputy Amanda Cruz-Giordano** of the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office is replacing former Board member Scott Black. Deputy Cruz-Giordano is a Training Coordinator for Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and has taught a wide variety of criminal justice and general education courses at the college level since 2005 for both Arapahoe Community College Law Enforcement Academy and the University of Phoenix. She was appointed to the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office in April of 1998 after a year as a reserve with Sheridan Police Department. She is a member of the National Association of School Resource Officers, International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association, and Rocky Mountain Women in Law Enforcement. Deputy Cruz-Giordano is presently working on her PhD in Public Safety. She hopes to assist POST in the development of training standards for the Colorado law enforcement community.

**Chief John Dyer** of the Rifle Police Department is replacing Chief Mark Beckner of Boulder PD on the Board. Chief Dyer came to Colorado in August of 2012 and started as Chief in Rifle in September of that year. Prior to moving to Colorado, he served with the Oak Harbor, Washington, Police Department from 1984 as a patrol officer until ending his time there as lieutenant and patrol commander in 2012. He continues to focus strongly on community service and policing and on working with citizens and other agencies to develop productive relationships. Chief Dyer has a BA in Organizational Management and is currently working on his MA in Management and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Chief Dyer grew up in Boston and joined the Marines at age 17, which took him to Whidbey Island, Washington, where he remained. He and his wife have five daughters and have been enjoying the varied outdoor activities the Western Slope has to offer.

**Chief Michael Phibbs** of the Elizabeth Police Department will be replacing Idaho Springs police Chief Dave Wohlers at the end of Chief Wohlers term on June 30th, 2014. Chief Phibbs began his law enforcement career in 1992 and has served with the Silverthorne Police Department, the Summit County Sheriff's Office, and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, a Master's Degree in Police Executive Leadership, and is a graduate of the 241st Session of the FBI National Academy. Chief

Phibbs serves on several boards including the North Central Regional Board, The Elbert County Communications Board, and the Public Sector Health Care Group Board. Chief Phibbs is a third generation Colorado native who lives in Castle Rock. He is the past president of The Castle Rock Rotary Club, is active with his son in Boy Scout Troop 261, and is a member of the St. Francis Catholic Church community.

#### POST Certification Test

The POST certification test has gone online thanks to the diligent work of POST Compliance Officer Tom Mullen. He has taken the current items and put them into the testing module of our new records management system, Acadis. The new test should be ready to be administered on August 1st and will be a 125 question examination. POST is also in the process of purchasing tablets for students to take the test.

#### Symposium on Eyewitness Identification

The POST Director attended a one-day symposium on eyewitness identification. The focus was the research on sequential and simultaneous photo lineups and use of the sequential, double blind lineup by agencies in California. Also in attendance were members of the Colorado Attorney General's Best Practices Committee. POST had surveyed agencies prior to the symposium to determine what agencies are doing. Half of the responding agencies are conducting sequential photo identification procedures; half are using the standard simultaneous photo arrays.

Next POST Board Meeting:  
September 12, 2014, 10:00 am.  
Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center  
1300 Broadway  
Denver, CO

SME Committees meets at 8 am.